

**COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 13, 2004**

The meeting was called to order by President, Brent Waltz.

**I. ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: R.J. McConnell, Keith Wright, Paul Reed, Ron West, and Charlie Canary. Richard Mason arrived later during the meeting. John Phil Wilson was present as the Council's attorney.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. INVOCATION**

**ADOPTION OF THE 2005 BUDGETS**

Mr. Waltz noted that he spoke with Mr. Mason this morning and stated that he would be in attendance this evening. Mr. Waltz suggested that they wait until Mr. Mason arrives to discuss the adoption and to go ahead with the regular meeting.

Mr. Reed made a motion to postpone the adoption until Mr. Mason arrives. Mr. McConnell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**IV. APPROVAL OF 9/13/04 AGENDA**

Mr. West moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

**V. APPROVAL OF 8/9/04 MINUTES**

Mr. West made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Reed seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**VII. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS & TRANSFERS:**

**TITLE 4-D JUVENILE COURT – (137)**

Juvenile Court Judge, Craig Lawson, appeared before the Council to request the following transfer:

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| From: #137-312.0 – Equipment Repair & Maintenance | (\$ 1,500.00) |
| From: #137-320.0 – Communication                  | (\$ 515.00)   |
| To: #137-114.0 – Part-time                        | \$ 2,015.00   |

Mr. Canary made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Wright seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER – (140)**

Kristi Bruther, Assistant Director, was present to answer any questions regarding their transfer request to replace two Pelco Multiplexers that were damaged during a storm.

Mr. Canary asked if this was covered under the County's insurance?

Ms. Bruther replied that they talked with the County Attorney and he stated that it was not enough to meet the deductible; the deductible is around \$10,000.00 per event.

Mr. Waltz then asked what exactly was a Pelco Multiplexer?

Ms. Bruther answered that it was a device that takes their cameras and puts it into a monitor for their staff to view the facility. She noted that they have three of them, but two went out during the storm.

Mr. McConnell made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Wright seconded the motion; the motion unanimously carried.

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| From: #140-312.0 – Building Repair & Maintenance | (\$ 3,650.00) |
| To: #140-440.0 – Office Equipment                | \$ 3,650.00   |

**COMPUTER SERVICES – (141)**

Mr. Wright moved to approve the transfer as presented. Mr. Reed seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| From: #141-399.0 – Professional Services | (\$ 2,400.00) |
| To: #141-210.0 – Office Supplies         | \$ 1,400.00   |
| To: #141-410.0 – Office Equipment        | \$ 1,000.00   |

**JAIL – (124)**

Sheriff Terry McLaughlin appeared to seek approval for the following requests:

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| From: #124-392.0 – Safe Keeping of Inmates            | (\$ 10,000.00) |
| To: #124-255.0 – Prescription Medicines               | \$ 10,000.00   |
| #124-126.4 – Correctional Officer to Training Officer |                |

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Mr. Canary made a motion to approve the transfer and title change as requested. Mr. Reed seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

**AUDITOR – (102)**

Mr. Canary made a motion to approve the following request as presented. Mr. McConnell seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

From: #102-331.0 – Printing (\$ 1,500.00)  
To: #102-216.0 – Office Supplies \$ 1,500.00

**EMERGENCY PLANNING & RIGHT TO KNOW – (212)**

Mr. West made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Wright seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

#212-410.0 – Equipment \$ 2,500.00

**PARK NON-REVERTING CAPITAL – (271)**

Mr. Reed moved to approve the following request as presented. Mr. Canary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#271-210.0 – Supplies \$ 25,000.00

**PROSECUTOR DEFERRAL PROGRAM – (327)**

Michelle Murray, Office Administrator, appeared to seek approval for the following requests:

#327-360.0 – Equipment Repair \$ 2,000.00  
#327-312.0 – Dues & Subscriptions \$ 1,260.00

Mr. West asked if they could get a breakdown, clarifying what dues and subscriptions were being paid?

Mrs. Murray stated that this is for a subscription to LOIS LAW, where attorneys can look up cases on the Internet instead of ordering several books. She also stated that they pay \$105.00 annually for each attorney for their Supreme Court dues.

Mr. McConnell moved to approve the requests as presented. Mr. Wright seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

**BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS GRANT #2 (Health Dept.) – (919)**

**BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS GRANT #1 (Health Dept.) – (915)**

Louise Brinkman, Health Nurse, was present to answer any questions regarding the requests below.

Mr. Waltz asked what the Contractual Services included?

Mrs. Brinkman replied that they have hired a person on a contractual basis instead of as a full time county employee; therefore, she has no county benefits. This grant runs from August 1, 2004 to July 31, 2005.

Mr. West moved to approve both grants (#919 & #915) as presented. Mr. Reed seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#919-211.0 – Office Supplies \$ 500.00  
#919-323.0 – Travel & Training \$ 5,500.00  
#919-324.0 – Communication \$ 1,260.00  
#919-361.0 – Contractual Services \$ 50,000.00  
#919-362.0 – Other Services \$ 5,100.00  
#919-410.0 – Office Equipment \$ 1,100.00

#915-310.0 – Professional Services \$ 10,600.00

**WIC – (215) (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31)**

Tracy Smith, Coordinator, was present to seek approval of her three month budget for the fiscal year 2004 and to answer any questions the Council may have.

Mr. Reed made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

#215-111.0 – Registered Nurse \$ 9,048.00  
#215-112.0 – Coordinator \$ 9,477.00  
#215-113.0 – Office Manager \$ 6,162.00  
#215-113.1 – Registered Dietitian (\$15.61 per hour) \$ 780.50  
#215-113.2 – Clinic Assistant \$ 4,749.00  
#215-114.0 – Insurance \$ 265.00  
#215-161.0 – FICA \$ 2,313.00  
#215-172.0 – PERF \$ 2,430.00  
#215-217.0 – Supplies \$ 1,011.00  
#215-350.0 – Professional Services \$ 1,130.00  
#215-322.0 – Postage \$ 50.00  
#215-323.0 – Travel & Training \$ 52.00  
#215-372.0 – Utilities / Rent \$ 5,354.00  
#215-340.0 – Equipment Repair & Maintenance \$ 300.00

From: #215-217.0 – Supplies (\$ 733.00)

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To: #215-350.0 – Professional Services \$ 733.00

Rick Mason arrived at this time.

**ANIMAL SHELTER – (219)**

Julie Hively, Animal Warden, appeared to request the following appropriations:

#219-143.0 – Retirement \$ 7,500.00  
#219-324.0 – Utilities \$ 1,300.00

Mr. West suggested that the County look into alternative unemployment policies to help reduce costs. He then moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – (122)**

Joe Pitcher, County Attorney, was present to request an additional appropriation for the Employee Group Health Insurance.

Mr. Wright asked if the County has seriously thought about bidding out the insurance to a private carrier.

Mr. Pitcher replied that no, not to his knowledge; although, he commented that the current plan is a very good plan.

Auditor, Brenda Jones-Matthews, stated that the County averages \$100,000.00 a month; however, twice this year already, Woods & Grooms has called requesting additional money to pay for some high claims that were submitted and they have also told us to hold some money in reserves for additional claims they know are coming.

Both Mrs. Jones-Matthews and Mr. Pitcher commented that for the past several years, the Actuary has told the County that they need to increase the budgeted amount for health insurance.

Mr. McConnell made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Mason seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#122-144.0 – Employee Group Health Insurance \$ 300,000.00

Mr. Waltz then asked Mr. Pitcher a question regarding the deductibles for property insurance.

Mr. Pitcher explained that there are several different plans and deductibles. For example, vehicles have \$1,000 and certain equipment is \$5,000, but most equipment in buildings is \$10,000 as well as for the buildings themselves. The deductible is per each occurrence, which is a pretty standard policy.

Mr. West then asked Mr. Pitcher about the unemployment policies, especially the situation at the Animal Shelter, and how the non-general fund departments could be included in some type of a pool, countywide, to help save money overall.

**ADOPTION OF THE 2005 BUDGETS**

Mr. West first commented that he received a phone call from a taxpayer who reminded him that it is the Council's job to protect the taxpayers and to not pass funding burdens onto them. He then pointed out that the increases in the budget came from about three or four areas that they really have no control over, and proposed that the Council request an excess levy, whether they choose to exercise it or not, it will give them an option for next year. He also stated that by borrowing funds for next year, it will help with the current shortfalls, but it is not a solution, it only exacerbates the situation next year.

Mr. Canary commented that he is not necessarily in favor of an excess levy, but something needs to be done; in fact it probably should have been done about three years ago when the jail was built. He also noted that he doesn't want to put money in there and spend it, just to be spending it either.

Mr. Waltz stated that over the past four years, while he has been on Council, the years have not been good economically; therefore they have faced tough budgetary challenges. There has been a lot of discussion on spending the surplus down verses increasing taxes; however, the logic was to use the money available, instead of asking for more money from the taxpayers, who need that money for their families. Today, they are facing a similar situation, do they raise taxes or find a way to balance the budget, without cutting services, raising taxes, or laying employees off, which is what they avoided at the end of second reading.

Mr. Canary agreed with Mr. Waltz but expressed his concern for the future budgetary process.

Mr. McConnell commented that he feels like that some of the budget line items are still under funded, specifically the Health Insurance and Medical Care for Inmates, which are line items that cannot be controlled easily.

Mr. Mason expressed his concerns with the various possible tax increases, whether it be EDIT, CAGIT, Wheel Tax, Innkeepers, or an Excess Levy, and stressed that the Council needs to take a serious look at all the options, how much money they will collect and the long term effect, as soon as possible.

Mr. Reed stated that he is opposed to a tax increase. He has never seen a tax go on that ever came off. He feels as long as there is money available within the county, they should use that first.

Discussion was held concerning the possibility of future tax increases and the definition of a balanced budget.

At this time, they did the last request for an additional appropriation.



